

jesus and the essenes pdf

jesus and the essenes pdf has become a popular search term among scholars, historians, and religious enthusiasts interested in exploring the potential connections between Jesus of Nazareth and the Essene community. This article delves into the historical and theological aspects surrounding this intriguing topic, providing a comprehensive overview of the Essenes, their beliefs, and how they may have influenced Jesus or early Christianity. Additionally, the availability of resources, including scholarly PDFs, plays a significant role in facilitating in-depth research. Readers will gain insights into the Essenes' way of life, the evidence supporting or refuting Jesus' association with them, and the significance of these connections in understanding Christian origins. The article is structured to offer clarity and thoroughness, ultimately providing a valuable resource for anyone seeking knowledge on jesus and the essenes pdf materials.

- The Essenes: Historical Background and Beliefs
- Jesus and the Essenes: Possible Connections
- Scholarly Perspectives on Jesus and the Essenes
- Accessing jesus and the essenes pdf Resources
- The Impact of Essene Teachings on Early Christianity

The Essenes: Historical Background and Beliefs

The Essenes were a Jewish sect that flourished from the 2nd century BCE until the 1st century CE, known for their strict communal lifestyle, ascetic practices, and distinctive religious beliefs. They lived

primarily in isolated communities, with the most famous settlement near Qumran by the Dead Sea. The Essenes emphasized purity, ritual washing, communal ownership, and anticipation of the coming of a messianic figure. Their writings and practices reflect a deep commitment to the Torah and a unique interpretation of Jewish law and prophecy.

Origins and Lifestyle

The origins of the Essenes are somewhat obscure, but historical sources such as Josephus, Philo, and Pliny the Elder provide accounts of their existence. The Essenes lived in tightly-knit communities, practiced celibacy or strict marriage rules, and adhered to rigorous daily rituals including communal meals and prayer. Their lifestyle was marked by simplicity and detachment from the material world, aiming for spiritual purity and readiness for divine intervention.

Religious Beliefs and Practices

Central to Essene theology was the belief in two messiahs: a priestly and a kingly figure who would lead Israel's restoration. They also practiced strict adherence to the law, ritual baths (mikvah), and maintained detailed purity codes. The Dead Sea Scrolls, discovered in the mid-20th century, have provided extensive insight into Essene theology, revealing apocalyptic expectations and community rules that governed their way of life.

Jesus and the Essenes: Possible Connections

The relationship between Jesus and the Essenes has been a subject of scholarly debate for decades. Some researchers propose that Jesus may have been influenced by Essene doctrine or even spent time within their communities. This hypothesis is largely based on similarities between Jesus' teachings and Essene beliefs, as well as geographical proximity to Essene settlements during his lifetime.

Shared Themes and Teachings

Many scholars note parallels between the teachings of Jesus and the Essenes, such as emphasis on purity, communal living ideals, and apocalyptic expectations. Both stressed the importance of the Kingdom of God and ethical conduct, including love, humility, and repentance. However, notable differences exist, particularly regarding Jesus' approach to the law, social engagement, and the nature of the messiah.

Geographical and Historical Considerations

Jesus' ministry took place largely in Galilee and Judea, regions near Essene communities like Qumran. While direct evidence of Jesus' membership in the Essenes is lacking, it is plausible that he was aware of their beliefs and practices. Some theorists argue that Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, who may have had Essene links, further suggests indirect influence.

Scholarly Perspectives on Jesus and the Essenes

Academic opinions on the connection between Jesus and the Essenes vary widely, ranging from strong association theories to outright dismissal of any significant link. This section explores key scholarly arguments and the evidence cited in support of various viewpoints.

Arguments Supporting a Connection

Proponents of the connection emphasize the striking similarities between certain Jesus teachings and Essene doctrines, such as communal sharing, apocalyptic outlook, and ritual purity. They also highlight textual evidence from the Dead Sea Scrolls that reflects themes found in the Gospels, suggesting a shared religious environment or direct influence.

Arguments Against a Direct Association

Critics argue that the differences in Jesus' approach to social and religious issues set him apart from the Essenes. Jesus' engagement with sinners, tax collectors, and his reinterpretation of the law contrast with the Essenes' separatism and strict legalism. Moreover, canonical texts do not explicitly identify Jesus as an Essene, and historical sources do not corroborate such membership.

Accessing jesus and the essenes pdf Resources

For researchers and enthusiasts interested in exploring jesus and the essenes pdf documents, there are numerous academic and historical resources available. These PDFs include scholarly articles, translations of the Dead Sea Scrolls, theological analyses, and comparative studies of early Christian and Essene texts.

Types of Available PDFs

- Historical research papers analyzing the Essenes and their cultural context
- Translations and commentaries on the Dead Sea Scrolls
- Comparative studies of Jesus' teachings and Essene doctrines
- Theological explorations of messianic expectations in Second Temple Judaism
- Documentaries and lecture transcripts discussing the Essenes' role in early Christianity

Where to Find Reliable PDFs

Academic databases, university libraries, and religious studies websites often provide access to peer-reviewed works and credible PDFs. These resources are invaluable for gaining a detailed understanding of the historical and religious context surrounding Jesus and the Essenes PDF topics. It is important to select authoritative sources to ensure accuracy and depth of information.

The Impact of Essene Teachings on Early Christianity

The influence of Essene beliefs on early Christian thought is a topic of considerable interest, as some early Christian concepts appear to reflect Essene theology. Understanding this impact helps clarify the development of Christian doctrines and community structures.

Influences on Christian Practices and Beliefs

Several elements of early Christianity may have been shaped by Essene influence, including:

- Communal living and sharing of possessions
- Emphasis on ritual purity and baptism
- Apocalyptic expectations and messianic hope
- Ethical teachings emphasizing humility, charity, and repentance

Distinctive Christian Developments

Despite these overlaps, Christianity developed distinct features that departed from Essene traditions.

Jesus' inclusive ministry, the concept of salvation through faith, and the establishment of a universal church marked significant innovations. These differences reflect the dynamic nature of early Christian theology as it emerged from a complex Jewish milieu.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the connection between Jesus and the Essenes according to historical texts?

Historical texts and some scholars suggest that Jesus may have had interactions or shared similarities with the Essenes, a Jewish sect known for their ascetic lifestyle and communal living, though direct evidence is limited and debated.

Are there any PDFs available that explore the relationship between Jesus and the Essenes?

Yes, there are several PDFs and academic papers available online that analyze the possible connections between Jesus and the Essenes, often found in religious studies databases or on websites dedicated to biblical scholarship.

What are the main teachings of the Essenes that relate to the life of Jesus?

The Essenes emphasized purity, communal living, and eschatological expectations, themes that are sometimes paralleled in the teachings and lifestyle attributed to Jesus in the New Testament.

How do scholars interpret the similarities between Jesus' teachings

and Essene beliefs?

Scholars interpret these similarities in various ways, ranging from suggesting Jesus was influenced by Essene thought to proposing that both emerged from a common Jewish cultural and religious context.

Is 'Jesus and the Essenes' a commonly referenced book or document available in PDF format?

There are books and scholarly articles titled with or about 'Jesus and the Essenes' that can be found in PDF format, but it is important to verify the credibility and source of these documents for academic or personal study.

What role do Essene writings, like the Dead Sea Scrolls, play in understanding Jesus' historical context?

Essenes writings, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, provide valuable insight into Jewish beliefs and practices during the Second Temple period, helping scholars contextualize the environment in which Jesus lived and taught.

Can reading PDFs about Jesus and the Essenes offer new perspectives on early Christianity?

Yes, studying PDFs and scholarly works about Jesus and the Essenes can offer new perspectives on early Christianity by highlighting alternative religious ideas and communities that influenced or paralleled Jesus' ministry.

Additional Resources

1. *Jesus and the Essenes: Unveiling the Hidden Connections*

This book explores the historical and theological ties between Jesus Christ and the Essene community. It examines ancient texts and archaeological findings to argue that Jesus may have been

influenced by Essene beliefs and practices. The author provides a detailed analysis of Essene rituals, teachings, and their possible impact on early Christianity.

2. The Essenes and the Origins of Christianity

Delving into the origins of Christianity, this work investigates the role of the Essenes, a Jewish sect, in shaping Jesus's teachings. It compares the Dead Sea Scrolls with the New Testament to highlight similarities in doctrine and lifestyle. The book offers a fresh perspective on Jesus's spiritual background and the early Christian movement.

3. Jesus Among the Essenes: A Historical Inquiry

This scholarly book presents a rigorous historical inquiry into the relationship between Jesus and the Essenes. It discusses the social and religious context of 1st-century Judea and how the Essenes' apocalyptic views might have influenced Jesus's message. The author also evaluates competing theories about Jesus's possible membership or association with the Essenes.

4. The Essenes, the Scrolls, and the Dead Sea: Jesus in Context

Focusing on the Dead Sea Scrolls, this book sheds light on the Essenes' worldview and their potential connection to Jesus. It interprets the scrolls in relation to the New Testament, suggesting that Jesus's teachings reflect Essene ideology. The narrative situates Jesus within the broader religious landscape of his time.

5. Secret Teachings of Jesus and the Essenes

This intriguing book uncovers the secret teachings shared by Jesus and the Essenes, emphasizing mystical and spiritual knowledge. It draws from apocryphal texts and ancient manuscripts to reveal hidden dimensions of Jesus's message. Readers gain insight into esoteric practices that may have been common to both Jesus and the Essene sect.

6. Jesus the Essene: Exploring the Lost Gospel

This book proposes that an early gospel, influenced by Essene thought, offers a different portrayal of Jesus. It analyzes the theological and ethical teachings within this lost gospel and compares them to canonical scriptures. The author argues for a reevaluation of Jesus's identity based on Essene

connections.

7. From the Essenes to Jesus: The Spiritual Heritage of Early Christianity

Tracing the spiritual lineage from the Essenes to Jesus, this book highlights shared themes such as purity, communal living, and eschatology. It examines how Essene traditions may have been integrated into Jesus's mission and the founding of the Christian church. The text provides a comprehensive overview of early religious influences.

8. The Essenes and Jesus: Mystics of the Dead Sea

This work focuses on the mystical aspects of the Essene community and their possible impact on Jesus's spiritual teachings. It explores themes like meditation, prophecy, and ritual purity, suggesting that Jesus embraced similar practices. The book offers a unique lens on the spiritual dynamics of the time.

9. Jesus, the Essenes, and the Qumran Connection

Exploring the archaeological site of Qumran, this book investigates the link between the Essene sect and Jesus. It provides an analysis of the material culture and texts discovered in Qumran, correlating them with New Testament accounts. The book presents evidence for a direct or indirect relationship between Jesus and the Essenes.

[Jesus And The Essenes Pdf](#)

Jesus and the Essenes: Unraveling the Mysteries of a Possible Connection

This ebook delves into the fascinating and often debated connection between Jesus and the Essenes, a Jewish sect active during the time of Jesus. We'll explore the historical evidence, theological similarities and differences, and the ongoing scholarly discussions surrounding this intriguing relationship, considering both supporting and dissenting viewpoints. This exploration will help readers form their own informed conclusions about the potential influence of Essene beliefs and practices on the life and teachings of Jesus.

Ebook Title: Jesus and the Essenes: A Critical Examination of Historical and Theological Parallels

Outline:

Introduction: Setting the historical context, introducing the Essenes and Jesus, outlining the scope and methodology of the ebook.

Chapter 1: The Essenes – A Closer Look: Exploring the origins, beliefs, practices, and social structure of the Essenes based on contemporary research.

Chapter 2: Jesus' Life and Teachings: Analyzing key aspects of Jesus' ministry, teachings, and ethical principles within their historical context.

Chapter 3: Parallels Between Essene Beliefs and Jesus' Teachings: Examining specific points of convergence, including communal living, apocalyptic expectations, baptism, and ethical pronouncements.

Chapter 4: Divergences and Contrasts: Highlighting key differences in beliefs and practices between the Essenes and early Christianity.

Chapter 5: The Dead Sea Scrolls and Their Significance: Investigating the contribution of the Dead Sea Scrolls to our understanding of the Essenes and their potential relationship to Jesus.

Chapter 6: Scholarly Debates and Interpretations: Surveying various scholarly perspectives on the Jesus-Essene connection, presenting both supporting and opposing viewpoints.

Chapter 7: Theological Implications: Exploring the theological implications of a potential Essene influence on Jesus' teachings and the development of early Christianity.

Conclusion: Summarizing the findings, reiterating the complexities of the issue, and suggesting avenues for further research.

Detailed Explanation of Outline Points:

Introduction: This section lays the groundwork by providing necessary historical background on both the Essenes and Jesus, clarifying the purpose of the ebook, and outlining the approach taken in analyzing the potential connection. It will define key terms and concepts relevant to the discussion.

Chapter 1: The Essenes – A Closer Look: This chapter will provide a detailed overview of the Essenes, drawing upon recent archaeological discoveries and scholarly interpretations of the Dead Sea Scrolls and other historical sources. It will cover their social organization, religious beliefs (including their views on ritual purity, apocalyptic beliefs, and messianic expectations), and daily practices.

Chapter 2: Jesus' Life and Teachings: This chapter offers a concise yet thorough examination of Jesus' life and teachings, focusing on elements potentially relevant to the Essene connection. It will cover his ministry, parables, ethical teachings, and the historical context of his life and death.

Chapter 3: Parallels Between Essene Beliefs and Jesus' Teachings: This chapter focuses on comparing and contrasting specific beliefs and practices of the Essenes with those of Jesus. It will examine areas of potential overlap, such as communal living, baptism rituals, apocalyptic expectations, and emphasis on ethical conduct. Specific examples from the Gospels and the Dead Sea Scrolls will be used to support the analysis.

Chapter 4: Divergences and Contrasts: This crucial chapter addresses the differences between Essene beliefs and practices and those of early Christianity. It will highlight areas where clear distinctions exist, demonstrating that a simple, direct line of influence may not be entirely accurate.

Chapter 5: The Dead Sea Scrolls and Their Significance: This chapter explores the pivotal role of the Dead Sea Scrolls in understanding the Essenes and their potential relationship with Jesus. It will analyze relevant texts from the scrolls and discuss the ongoing scholarly debate surrounding their interpretation.

Chapter 6: Scholarly Debates and Interpretations: This chapter presents a balanced overview of the various scholarly viewpoints on the Jesus-Essene connection. It will include both proponents and critics of the hypothesis, providing a nuanced understanding of the complexities of the issue.

Chapter 7: Theological Implications: This chapter examines the theological implications of a potential Essene influence on the development of early Christianity. It will discuss the potential impact on core Christian beliefs and practices.

Conclusion: This section summarizes the main findings of the ebook, highlighting the key arguments and conclusions reached. It will acknowledge the limitations of the available evidence and suggest areas for future research.

Keywords: Jesus, Essenes, Dead Sea Scrolls, Qumran, Jewish sects, apocalyptic literature, baptism, communal living, ethical teachings, messianism, early Christianity, historical Jesus, New Testament, scholarly debate, theological implications, religious history, biblical studies.

FAQs:

1. What is the significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls in understanding the Essenes and their potential relationship with Jesus? The Dead Sea Scrolls provide invaluable insight into Essene beliefs and practices, offering a glimpse into their daily life, religious rituals, and theological perspectives. However, their direct connection to Jesus remains a subject of ongoing debate.
2. What are the main similarities between Essene beliefs and Jesus' teachings? Similarities include an emphasis on communal living, ritual purity, apocalyptic expectations, and ethical conduct, particularly regarding social justice. However, the interpretation and significance of these similarities are widely debated.
3. What are the key differences between Essene beliefs and early Christianity? Key differences involve differing messianic expectations, understanding of the Law, and the specific nature of their rituals and practices. The development of Christian theology also diverged significantly from Essene beliefs.
4. Did Jesus belong to the Essene community? There is no conclusive historical evidence to

definitively confirm or deny Jesus' membership in an Essene community. The debate continues among scholars.

5. What is the current scholarly consensus on the Jesus-Essene connection? There is no single, universally accepted scholarly consensus. Some scholars see significant parallels suggesting potential influence, while others emphasize crucial differences.

6. How does the study of the Essenes contribute to our understanding of the historical Jesus? Studying the Essenes provides crucial context for understanding the religious landscape of first-century Palestine, helping to illuminate the cultural and religious environment in which Jesus lived and ministered.

7. What are the theological implications of a potential Essene influence on Jesus? The implications are significant, potentially affecting interpretations of Jesus' teachings, his relationship to Judaism, and the development of early Christian theology.

8. What are some of the primary sources used to study the Essenes? Primary sources include the Dead Sea Scrolls, the writings of Josephus, and the writings of Philo. Secondary sources consist of scholarly articles and books analyzing these texts and other related evidence.

9. Where can I find more information on the Essenes and their connection to Jesus? Numerous books and scholarly articles are available on this topic, and academic libraries and online databases are excellent resources.

Related Articles:

1. The Dead Sea Scrolls: A Comprehensive Guide: A detailed exploration of the discovery, contents, and scholarly interpretation of the Dead Sea Scrolls.
2. The Essenes and Jewish Apocalypticism: An in-depth study of Essene beliefs regarding the end times and their messianic expectations.
3. Jesus' Baptism and its Significance: An analysis of the significance of Jesus' baptism in the context of Jewish purification rites and apocalyptic expectation.
4. Communal Living in Early Christianity and Judaism: A comparison of communal living practices in early Christian communities and various Jewish sects.
5. The Historical Context of Jesus' Ministry: A study of the socio-political and religious landscape of first-century Palestine.
6. The Gospels and their Historical Reliability: An examination of the historical accuracy and reliability of the four Gospels.
7. Jewish Sects in the Second Temple Period: An overview of the various Jewish sects that flourished during the Second Temple period.
8. Apocalyptic Literature in the Second Temple Period: An analysis of apocalyptic writings from the Second Temple period and their influence on religious thought.
9. Early Christian Theology and its Jewish Roots: An exploration of the relationship between early Christian theology and its Jewish origins.

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By bringing this holistic analysis of the evidence to bear, Joseph adds a powerful and insightful voice to the decades-long debate surrounding the Essenes and Christianity.

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jesus and the essenes pdf: Christ, Christians and Christianity, Book I E. Planta Nesbit, 2010-02 Edward Planta Nesbit (c. 1825-1900) was a schoolmaster, author and land agent in Australia. His only known work, Christ, Christians and Christianity, Book I: Jesus an Essene was published in 1895. It was intended as the first volume in a series of 7, but he never completed any further volumes. Essenes were apocalyptic ascetics, one of the three (or four) major Jewish schools of Jesus' time, though they were not mentioned in the New Testament. Some scholars theorize that Jesus was an Essene, or close to them. Among these scholars is Pope Benedict XVI, who supposes in his book on Jesus that it appears that not only John the Baptist, but possibly Jesus and his family as well, were close to the Qumran community.

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A provocative thesis that the historical Jesus was connected to the royal 18th dynasty of Egypt •
Contends that Jesus, Joshua, and Tutankhamun were the same person • Provides evidence from church documentation, the Koran, the Talmud, and archaeology that the Messiah came more than a millennium before the first century C.E. • Shows that Christianity evolved from Essene teachings
Although it is commonly believed that Jesus lived during the first century C.E., there is no concrete evidence to support this fact from the Roman and Jewish historians who would have been his contemporaries. The Gospel writers themselves were of a later generation, and many accounts recorded in the Old Testament and Talmudic commentary refer to the coming of the Messiah as an event that had already occurred. Using the evidence available from archaeology, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Koran, the Talmud, and biblical sources, Ahmed Osman provides a compelling case that both Jesus and Joshua were one and the same--a belief echoed by the early Church Fathers--and that this person was likewise the pharaoh Tutankhamun, who ruled Egypt between 1361 and 1352 B.C.E.

and was regarded as the spiritual son of God. Osman contends that the Essene Christians--who followed Jesus' teachings in secret after his murder--only came into the open following the execution of their prophet John the Baptist by Herod, many centuries later. Yet it was also the Essenes who, following the death of Tutankhamun and his father Akhenaten (Moses), secretly kept the monotheistic religion of Egypt alive. The Essenes believed themselves to be the people of the New Covenant established between their Lord and themselves by the Teacher of Righteousness, who was murdered by a wicked priest. The Dead Sea Scrolls support Osman's contention that this Teacher of Righteousness was in fact Jesus.

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Olives, Dowling offers complete details concerning the savior's years among monks, wise men, and seers throughout the Orient. Readers with an interest in occult lore and the history of religion will find this remarkable volume a source of endless fascination.

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perspective on one of the greatest stories ever told even as it affirms the radical and transformative nature of Jesus' life and mission. Praise for Zealot "Riveting . . . Aslan synthesizes Scripture and scholarship to create an original account."—The New Yorker "Fascinatingly and convincingly drawn . . . Aslan may come as close as one can to respecting those who revere Jesus as the peace-loving, turn-the-other-cheek, true son of God depicted in modern Christianity, even as he knocks down that image."—The Seattle Times "[Aslan's] literary talent is as essential to the effect of Zealot as are his scholarly and journalistic chops. . . . A vivid, persuasive portrait."—Salon "This tough-minded, deeply political book does full justice to the real Jesus, and honors him in the process."—San Francisco Chronicle "A special and revealing work, one that believer and skeptic alike will find surprising, engaging, and original."—Jon Meacham, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power* "Compulsively readable . . . This superb work is highly recommended."—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

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involve an opposition to Judaism which led to death?) and the motivating force behind the rise of Christianity (did the split between the Christian movement and Judaism originate in opposition during Jesus' lifetime?).

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Times-bestselling study, the co-author of *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* explores further mysteries surrounding Jesus Christ. What if everything we have been told about the origins of Christianity is a lie? What if a small group had always known the truth and had kept it hidden . . . until now? What if there is evidence that Jesus Christ survived the crucifixion? In *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* Michael Baigent and his co-authors Henry Lincoln and Richard Leigh stunned the world with a controversial theory that Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene married and founded a holy bloodline. The book became an international publishing phenomenon and was one of the sources for Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code*. Now, with two additional decades of research behind him, Baigent's *The Jesus Papers* presents explosive new evidence that challenges everything we know about the life and death of Jesus. Praise for *The Jesus Papers* "An explosive book." —The Today Show "Fascinating." —CNN's American Morning

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jesus and the essenes pdf: The Anti-Christ George Carey, 2023-04-26 The Anti-Christ is a short collection of writings by Dr. George W. Carey. This compilation includes *The Anti-Christ* (1918), a brief essay by Dr. Carey, and selected chapters from *God-Man: The Word Made Flesh* (1920). These selections explain how the common interpretation of the Scriptures is far afield from what was intended. They explore how the original meaning of the Biblical texts was deliberately skewed and obfuscated by the Roman Emperor Constantine and the council of Nicaea, convened in 325 AD. George Washington Carey (1845-1924) was an American occultist, homeopath, and writer. He combined religion, astrology, chemistry, and a laser focus on original texts to extrapolate what he believed was the true meaning of the life of Christ, the true nature of the human body, and the true nature of humanity. Dr. Carey's most well-known principles were in what he termed biochemistry. This discipline was built on the cell-salt theory by Dr. Wilhelm Heinrich Schüssler, who held that bodily deficiencies in 12 naturally occurring minerals caused myriad diseases. And by supplementing them, one could cure their ailments. Dr. Carey combined some of Dr. Schüssler's theories with his own views on the importance of the signs of the zodiac, positing that one's sun sign may impact which cell-salts will be most effective for each individual. There are still homeopathic practitioners today who use cell-salts to treat their patients. Inside this volume, you will find: ● *The Anti-Christ* (1918) ● *The Kingdom at Hand* (from *God-Man: The Word Made Flesh*) ● *The Anti-Christ* (from *God-Man: The Word Made Flesh*, a reprint of *The Anti-Christ* tract of 1918 with minor modifications) ● *What So Called Christians Say, and the Answer Combined*, these works explore the original truth as known by the earliest Christians—that the stories in the original Scriptures were allegories, parables or fables based on the human body 'fearfully and wonderfully made.' According to Carey and Perry, the parables in the Bible were not records of historical fact. Instead, they were used to describe the human body as a microcosm of the universe. And Christ is not a Divine Man sent to save us, but rather exists within us all. Drawing on the source language in Hebrew and Greek rather than the many translations and mistranslations, the authors show that the original intent of the words of the Biblical texts was to explore what is within us, rather than what is outside of us. And how was this truth hidden from us? The Roman Emperor Constantine—the anti-Christ—convened the council of Nicaea to vote on the true meaning of the scriptures. And he pushed the council to

make salvation a simple matter of belief as a means for quieting his own fears for his soul.

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The Jewish Gospel of John is not, by any standard, another book on Jesus of Nazareth written from a Jewish perspective. It is an invitation to the reader to put aside their traditional understanding of the Gospel of John and to replace it with another one more faithful to the original text perspective. The Jesus that will emerge will provoke to rethink most of what you knew about this gospel. The book is a well-rounded verse-by-verse illustrated rethinking of the fourth gospel. Here is the catch: instead of reading it, as if it was written for 21 century Gentile Christians, the book interprets it as if it was written for the first-century peoples of ancient Israel. The book proves what Krister Stendahl stated long time ago: Our vision is often more abstracted by what we think we know than by our lack of knowledge. Other than challenging the long-held interpretations of well-known stories, the author with the skill of an experienced tour guide, takes us to a seat within those who most probably heard this gospel read in the late first century. Such exploration of variety of important contexts allows us to recover for our generation the true riches of this marvelous Judean gospel. A genuine apologetic is one that is true to the texts and the history, akin to the speeches of a defense attorney with integrity. Using the best of contemporary scholarship in first-century Judaic history and contributing much of his own, Dr. Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg has demonstrated that the Gospel of John is not an anti-Jewish, but a thoroughly Jewish book. Daniel Boyarin, Hermann P. and Sophia Taubman Professor of Talmudic Culture, University of California, Berkeley Dr. Lizorkin-Eyzenberg places the text of John's Gospel in its authentic context by examining the Dead Sea Scrolls, Philo, rabbinic literature, and suggesting innovative explanations for the nomenclature, 'the Jews.' His fresh analysis is sure to stir meaningful debate. His creative approach will make an enduring contribution to the discipline of New Testament studies. Brad Young, Professor of Biblical Literature in Judeo-Christian Studies, Oral Roberts University For some time, research on the Gospels has suffered from stagnation, and there is a feeling that there is not much new that one can say. In light of this, Dr. Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg's new commentary on the Gospel of John, with its original outlook on the identity of the original audience and the issues at stake, is extremely refreshing. Ishay Rosen-Zvi, Head of the Talmud and Late Antiquity Department, Tel-Aviv University.

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